

Chicopee Register

Virtual ceremony honors city's fallen

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

Chicopee residents were unable to gather together on Memorial Day this year to honor the sacrifices that were made by the city's fallen service members. That said, they were not forgotten.

The unfamiliar circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic failed to deter the Department of Veterans' Services from holding a ceremony for all to witness. A May 25 memorial service at Veterans Plaza on Front Street was filmed for all to see.

"This day isn't about having a barbecue or getting an extra day of work. It's really about making sure that we never forget those that gave all. This day is meant for those who have fallen and the families who have been left behind," said Stephanie Shaw, Veterans' Services Director.

A handful of prominent guest speakers filmed and submitted speeches that were subsequently added to a program



STAFF PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Vietnam War veteran and Chicopee resident Ray Dow remembers his fallen peers at the Vietnam memorial in Veterans Park off of Front Street.

See **MEMORIAL** page 6

CHICOPEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

From cholera to COVID, Chicopee stands strong

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

COVID-19 may have the city in its grip, but it's certainly not the first disease outbreak to afflict the residents of Chicopee. Chicopee Historical Society President Chester Kobierski discussed the city's deadly track record pertaining to cholera.

"This was deadly. It was highly contagious and based on poor sanitation; it would wipe out whole sections of the population. At that time, there was no known cure for it. It was a continuous [disease] that started in the 1700s. It appeared every year but not to the great extent to which it happened in 1832, 1849 and 1866," said Kobierski.

Cholera is a bacterial dis-

ease of the small intestine that is infectious and often fatal. Typically ingested through water, it earned the moniker "blue death," as it causes the skin of the infected to turn bluish-gray due to loss of fluids.

Kobierski discovered newspaper clippings relating to the disease while searching for primary source material from the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918. Kobierski's findings made it clear that cholera had a profound impact on the city of Chicopee.

"It was mainly transmitted through unsanitary conditions that was at its worst in the summer," he said. "At that time, you didn't have sewer lines taking the sewage out of the city. You had outhouses in every back yard, which were near wells that people were

drinking water out of. It was a continuous cycle."

In Chicopee, Irish immigrants were most heavily afflicted. Confined to the city's West End and forced to work in close quarters, the Irish suffered heavy losses.

"The Irish were confined to a spot known as 'the Patch; which was where the laborers were segregated, the people who were considered 'dirty foreigners' at the time built all of the buildings in downtown Chicopee and dug the canals. They were kept separate from the rest of the population," said Kobierski.

Ironically, the area formerly known as the Patch remains primarily occupied by immigrants and has been for the past several centuries, Kobierski noted.

To further portray the magnitude of the cholera epidemics, Kobierski referenced a newspaper clipping that he recently uncovered.

"There's one mention in the Springfield paper from the late 1850s a delivery boy, who later became president of one of the Chicopee banks, was delivering groceries to the Irish settlers there, and there were 18 coffins lined up together. If you're talking about 18 coffins on one day, there had to be quite a few deaths there over the period of a year," he said.

Kobierski was unable to locate a concrete number of casualties but plans to "look into" city records when he is permitted to do so again.

Surprisingly, the common

See **CHOLERA** page 5



BROADBAND
Councilor continues advocacy for fiber internet

See Page 2



CENSUS 2020
Resident response outpacing the state, nation

See Page 2



COMMUNITY
Event organizers working on celebrations

See Page 3



SPORTS
Tri-County League cancels 2020 baseball season

See Page 8

| INDEX | |
|------------------|----|
| Opinion | 4 |
| Faces and Places | 5 |
| Classifieds | 10 |
| Public Notices | 12 |

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Municipal broadband proving its worth during shutdown

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

For years, local officials have debated the benefits of implementing municipal broadband in the city of Chicopee. Ward 1 City Councilor Joel McAuliffe has tirelessly urged his fellow councilors to adopt Crossroads Fiber, which he argues is a cheaper and more effective Internet option for all of the city’s residents.

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, McAuliffe feels as though the debate should be over. Fast, reliable Internet is no longer a comfort of everyday life; it’s an essential commodity, he said.

“For a while, a lot of the folks looked at this as a nice thing to have but not as a necessity,” said McAuliffe. “I think that [the pandemic] is going to change people’s views. They now view the Internet as critical infrastructure the same way that we view roads, bridges, airports and electricity; critical infrastructure that we can’t live without.”

The Chicopee Electric Light Department is pursuing its Crossroads Fiber initiative, which has already brought fiber Internet to certain areas of the city. Municipal city-wide broadband has yet to be achieved.

During an Oct. 2018 meeting of City Council, McAuliffe motioned for the city to offer municipal fiber Internet to all residents; the motion was defeated by a vote of 10-1.



STAFF PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

The Chicopee Electric Light Department is pioneering the city’s venture into municipal fiber Internet.

More than 18 months later, McAuliffe believes that the value of fiber Internet is as evident as it ever has been.

“Obviously, with the pandemic, we’ve seen Internet usage spike to its highest levels pretty much ever. Everybody’s on the Internet more because if it’s possible to work from home, you’re working from home,” he said. “What we’re finding is while we knew fast and reliable Internet was important for day-to-day life, it’s even more important now

with the new normal that the world is in and is going to be heading in.”

The Internet has become the backbone of communication during the COVID-19 crisis. From virtual schooling to doctor’s appointments as well as physical and mental health appointments, the Internet is being used to complete a myriad of crucial tasks. Slow Internet service is no longer merely inconvenient, it can now be of consequence.

McAuliffe referred to technical diffi-

culties that occurred during the May 12 meeting of City Council as being “the world’s best 120-minute ad for Crossroads Fiber because of the amount of outages, lags and connectivity issues that occurred.”

McAuliffe also argued that fiber optic Internet is less expensive than most of the options that residents currently pay for. McAuliffe said he currently pays \$70 a month for approximately 250 megabits per second; CEL is offering fiber users gig speed, or 1,000 megabits per second, for the same price.

“I often hear, ‘Well, it’s great that this is available, but it’s the same price as Charter.’ That’s not the case,” said McAuliffe. “If I wanted to upgrade to one gig speed, I would be able to do it paying the same amount that I am now and have much faster service.”

McAuliffe complimented CEL on its efforts and pledged to continue advocating for the city to invest further in the resource.

“This isn’t just a nice thing to have, this is a thing that everyone has to have,” said McAuliffe. “I think it’s making a case itself because people are frustrated with their Internet service. I think we’ve crossed a bridge and we’re not going back in terms of realizing how important this is in terms of it being a critical infrastructure. I anticipate folks being much more open to this and to moving the ball forward on it as a result of that.”

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| 27 | 28 | 29 | | 30 | | | | 31 | | | | 32 | 33 | 34 |
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| 45 | | | | 46 | | | | 47 | | | | 48 | | |
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| 60 | | | | | 61 | | | | 62 | | 63 | | | |
| 64 | | | | | 65 | | | | | | 66 | | | |
| 67 | | | | | 68 | | | | | | 69 | | | |

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Common request
- 5. Department in France
- 10. Fungi cells
- 14. Famed inventor
- 15. Hillsides
- 16. Cold wind
- 17. La ___ Tar Pits, Hollywood
- 18. Resembling a doddering old woman
- 19. Geological periods
- 20. Assists
- 22. Comedienne Gasteyer
- 23. Jewish spiritual leader
- 24. English soccer club
- 27. Body art
- 30. No (Scottish)
- 31. Clumsy person
- 32. Swiss river
- 35. Belittled
- 37. Luxury car
- 38. Single sheet of glass in a window
- 39. Monetary units
- 40. Supervises flying

- 41. Indian term of respect
- 42. Breezed through
- 43. The bill in a restaurant
- 44. Flower cluster
- 45. Moved quickly
- 46. Shooters need to do it
- 47. High schoolers’ test
- 48. Split pulses
- 49. Salts
- 52. Breaking Bad actor ___ Paul
- 55. Set ablaze
- 56. Semitic Sun god
- 60. Nervous system cells
- 61. Tourist destination Buenos ___
- 63. A way to bind
- 64. Behave uncontrollably
- 65. Feels concern
- 66. Sportscaster Andrews
- 67. Subway dwellers
- 68. Astrological aspect
- 69. You may take one

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Swedish rock group

- 2. Serbian
- 3. Away from wind
- 4. Actor Oliver
- 5. Helps little firms
- 6. Intricately decorative
- 7. American state
- 8. Type of tumor
- 9. Midway between east and southeast
- 10. On a line at right angles to a ship’s length
- 11. Fruit of the service tree
- 12. Grouch
- 13. Romanian city
- 21. Units of loudness
- 23. British Air Aces
- 25. Small amount
- 26. Hem’s partner
- 27. Turkic people
- 28. Member of the banana family
- 29. Liam Neeson franchise
- 32. Expressed pleasure
- 33. Inward-directed part of psyche
- 34. Insurgent

- 36. Unhappy
- 37. Gateway (Arabic)
- 38. Fundraising political group (abbr.)
- 40. Well-known
- 41. Satisfies
- 43. ‘___ death do us part
- 44. Jailhouse informant
- 46. French river
- 47. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- 49. Drenches
- 50. Clouds
- 51. Companies need to make them
- 52. Created from seaweed
- 53. One’s school: ___ mater
- 54. A type of act
- 57. Member of Russian people
- 58. Neutralizes alkalis
- 59. Monetary unit
- 61. Play a role
- 62. Midway between south and southeast

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 5

Census efforts yield results in the city

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

Even without the ability to interact with residents in person, the city of Chicopee is making headway in its efforts to yield a complete count for the 2020 U.S. Census. In comparison to both state and federal response rates, Chicopee is a step ahead.

“I’m very pleased with the response rate for Chicopee because the national average was as of [May 20] was 59.8 percent, our state is at 62 percent and ours is 65 percent of people in Chicopee have already responded,” said Janina Surdyka, registrar of voters.

Surdyka’s office is steering the campaign to encourage participation in the decennial census. The implications of the census will be noteworthy as the city’s count will determine the level of funding that is allotted annually for the next decade.

“It’s most important for financial support for the city and all the programs that we have,” said Surdyka. “For every person that is undercounted, the city will lose approximately \$2,372. That’s money for roads, for public safety, for schools, after-school lunches, special programs, resources for the police and fire and our senior center and library. It’s not just for this year; it’s for every year until 2030. We won’t get another bite of this apple until 10 years from now.”

The 2020 federal census is the first of its kind to allow for online responses. Surdyka believes that the newly featured option has contributed to Chicopee’s rising response rates, also giving credit to the Valley Opportunity Council’s promotional campaign.

Much of the city has responded positively to the census, but two areas are struggling to keep up. Even with the cur-

rent response rate in their favor, Surdyka and her team are hard at work, pursuing a complete count.

“It’s encouraging when we compare Chicopee to other surrounding large cities because we’re doing much, much better, but we still planned to have in-person engagements in hard-to-count communities such as Willimansett and Chicopee Center. We’re concerned with lower response rates in both of those areas,” said Surdyka.

Several adjustments have been made to counter the issue. Mailings delivered to residences in both locations now contain pamphlets that are printed in both English and Spanish; nearby businesses have also been given gift items to distribute.

“We also received some items with the census logo. We have some books, shopping bags, hand sanitizer, pens, pads and things like that. We’re distributing them to various convenience stores and have been in contact with the schools so that they can use some of the supplies as well. We’re still working on that front,” said Surdyka.

To make matters easier on individuals who are unfamiliar with or intimidated by the process, Surdyka and her colleagues are available by phone to help residents complete the census. When using the Internet, the census is “extremely basic,” she said, and takes only several minutes to complete.

Individuals questioning the confidentiality of the census need not worry. In accordance to the U.S. Constitution, census information cannot be shared for at least 72 years.

The pandemic has stalled Chicopee’s census-related endeavors, canceling a number of events that were scheduled for this spring. Surdyka, however, is optimistic that census takers will be deployed in the near future.

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Organizers moving annual city events due to virus threat

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

Several of the city’s most popular traditions have fallen victim to the COVID-19 pandemic. The list of postponed annual functions includes the Fourth of July fireworks display at Szot Park and the Downtown GetDown, both celebrations that residents hold dear.

Thankfully, the Planning and Parks and Recreation Departments will not sit idly by as 2020 threatens to become a year in which all community-based fun is banished. The departments are collaborating on a prospective fall event with the potential to be like no other.

“We are going to look at possibly collaborating with the Parks Department to see if there’s some way to bring together the city’s traditional Fourth of July fireworks and some component of the Get-Down into some sort of merged community event, maybe in October,” said City Planner Lee Pouliot.

Heavy uncertainties forced the city to postpone the GetDown, which typically occurs in late August and draws thousands of visitors to Chicopee Center. Pouliot noted that the event relies on donations and feels as though it would be wrong to ask local businesses to contribute financially during this difficult time.

Pouliot is working alongside Parks and Recreation Superintendent Ben Strepka as the two attempt to design a function



FILE PHOTO

Thousands of residents walk through closed off streets to enjoy last year’s Downtown GetDown festivities in the heart of the city. Planners of the annual tradition are looking to move the event, and others, due to the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19.

that will be safe for all to attend. The task isn’t easy, and results aren’t guaranteed, but Strepka anticipates the challenge.

“We’re hoping to bring both of those events together for a bigger and better celebration later this year,” he said. “It would be great for the residents of Chicopee because it would kind of be a celebration

for us; that we made it. I can’t speak as to when the pandemic will be over, but it would be a great celebration of the city’s resiliency and its ability to work together.”

Preliminary talks have not yet begun, as both departments are working to adequately and safely perform their current duties. When restrictions are lessened,

talks are expected to heat up.

Pouliot noted that it is nearly implausible to definitively plan a large scale event given the current climate but he’s thinking outside of the box, researching data and working to develop a number of strategies that could lead to an October gathering.

“Creativity and thinking about things differently is really important because we don’t want people to lose that community connection,” said Pouliot. “Between Parks and Planning, it’s novel to think about how we might bring something together like the annual fireworks and the GetDown into one merged event. I think people look forward to events like the fireworks every year so it will feel odd not having that in July, but Ben and I are hoping that we can give people something to look forward to, hopefully at the later stages of this experience so that kind of makes the summer less painful.”

Strepka is of a similar mindset; both men are currently focused on safety. When the time is right and “initial hurdles” are overcome, Strepka is confident that a memorable event will be in the making.

“Safety is the key factor, but if we can safely pull this event off later in the year, it’s going to be huge; more of a celebration for everyone that we got through this and it’s our chance to get together afterwards,” he said.

Blood donors needed to keep supply strong amid COVID-19 outbreak

In times of need, people come together to support one another. The American Red Cross is asking for healthy individuals to step up to help patients experiencing health crises by donating blood or platelets.

As COVID-19 continues to affect everyday life, people may not be thinking about blood donation. But blood and platelets are needed daily to help patients battling disease and facing the unexpected. Donating blood is an easy way to care for each other and ensure hospitals have the blood products patients rely on.

As a thank-you for helping ensure a stable blood supply, all who come to give blood or platelets May 15-31 will receive a special Red Cross “We’re all in this together” T-shirt, by mail, while supplies last. Donors must have a valid email address on file to claim their T-shirt.

How to help

Healthy individuals who are feeling well are asked to make an appointment to donate this May by downloading the

free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 800-733-2767 or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Amazon Echo device. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive and are required to wear a face covering or mask while at the drive, in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance.

Blood donation opportunities are available daily Springfield Blood Donation Center, 150 Brookdale Drive in Springfield, now through May 31.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control and additional precautions – including social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff – have been implemented to safeguard donors, volunteers and employees.

The Red Cross is also looking for blood drive hosts to help ensure a stable blood supply. Learn more and sign up

to sponsor a drive by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/HostADrive.

All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17-years-of-age, weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18-years-of-age and young-

er also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

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SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

About the 'Earnings Test' and 'Registering' with Social Security

By Russell Gloor
Guest Columnist

Dear Rusty: Does tax filing status matter when calculating how much you can earn without a reduction in your monthly Social Security payout? My wife and I have filed a joint income tax return for years. My wife is working and I'm 62 and wondering – if I start drawing SS, does the earnings limit only relate to what I earn, or does it include what my wife earns as well? Is the earnings limit tied to our IRS filing status? I need to know if I should file my taxes as a single to be sure my wife's earnings are not combined with mine to affect my Social Security payment.

Also, I've read that it's recommended to register online with SS if you're 62. As I understand it, this should be done even if one's not intending to start benefits yet. Is this true? What are the benefits for doing this? Does it make for a quicker start of payments once the election to start benefits is made? Would it help my wife should I die prior to starting my benefits? Signed: Wondering

Dear Wondering: Income tax filing status doesn't matter when it comes to determining if your earnings from work exceed Social Security "earnings limit." If you collect SS before you reach your full retirement age, your wife's earnings from working will not be counted toward your personal SS earnings limit. The earnings test looks only at your personal earnings and, if you exceed the limit, SS will take back some of your benefits. But only your personal earnings – as reported on your W-2 or Self-Employment tax return – count. If you're not working, then your Social Security benefits will not be affected by the earnings test, even if you file a joint return which has an Adjusted Gross Income which is more than the annual earnings limit because your wife works.

As for your second question: it is not necessary, nor would it gain you any advantage, to "register" with Social Security before you are ready to claim your benefits. Indeed, Social Security does not even provide you with a way to do that. What they do provide is a way for you to create your own personal "My Social Security" online account, which gives you access to all of the online features provided by the Social Security Administration, including allowing you to apply for your benefits online (the fastest way to claim) whenever you're ready to do that.

Having an online SS account doesn't provide you with any benefit advantage, but it allows you to monitor your lifetime earnings record, get a replacement SS card if needed, and get estimates of your current and future Social Security benefits to help you decide when to claim. You can create your personal "My Social Security" account by going to www.ssa.gov/myaccount. They use a "two-factor" security process, which means you'll not only need to set up a password but also a second way to confirm your identity (usually via a code sent to a text-enabled cellphone or your email account). But, even if you have this online account pre-established, your wife will still need to contact Social Security directly to claim her survivor benefit if you predeceased her. Survivor benefits must be applied for by the surviving spouse directly contacting Social Security.

Russell Gloor is a certified Social Security adviser through the Association of Mature American Citizens. This column is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

GUEST COLUMN

Joan E. B. Coombs



A classic home improvement

Home improvements appear to be at an all-time high during this COVID-19 isolation and incubation time. Recent stormy weather with tornado warnings and wild winds reaped havoc. Essential stores have remained opened supplying needed items for home repairs and improvements. Sanitized shopping carts and one-way aisle arrows tell customers how and where to go.

Creative solutions revitalize the mind. Alongside repairs, weeks of home confinement are having some surprising restorative enterprises. By all appearances families and friends are tearing off original wallpaper that's "been on the walls since the house was built!" Discoveries are being made. Holes in walls hidden behind mirrors are being found and getting plastered. All ages, even the young, with magic markers in hand, are decorating rooms with new drawings and themes.

Lately, while noticing all the home improvements that are making a definite impact on each household, it reminded me of a time when a refurbishing project definitely had a downward spiral.

Enter The Hub who performed an absolutely, unmis-takable spring fling.

It happened, when once upon a spring time, a toddler outgrew his crib and it was time to celebrate his growth and graduation to a "big boy's bed." A second-hand youth bed and triple dresser set was bought, and the family of four voted to paint it. They also decided to wallpaper his room's plain walls with a barn-board design and to decorate it with a new western theme.

Wallpapering done. Western décor was a work in progress.

Next, prep to paint the youth bedroom set a "Royal Colonial Blue" in the basement. Drop cloths. Gloves. Paint brushes. Paint thinner. Oil-based paint.

Being shorter than Mr. Hub's well-over-six-foot frame, The Mom swabbed the lowest spots. Soon only the side panels and the dresser top were left. Then painting the top was last.

Meanwhile the "Royal Colonial Blue" paint held its noble status while overseeing us.

"OPPS!" he gasped.
"THIS ISN'T REAL."
"STAY THERE!"... "I'll grab a cloth."

Within blinks, The Mom's shoulder length hair was officially dubbed a streaming royal blue.

Consequently, The Hubs

career as a laboratory paint chemist could have ended. But, being familiar with the redeemable qualities of solvents, he was sure of a solution. Or was he?

After removing as much of the sloshed paint as possible with a towel, other remedies, even the acclaimed "hair-spray" was tried. But, all efforts failed.

Apologetically he took The Mom's hand and gently guided her upstairs.

Towel turbaned, she called the neighborhood hair-dresser.

"It's a very bad hair day. 'Got time for a haircut?'"

"Sure. What's up? Big date with The Hub?"

"No. But, you may find this hard to believe ... (Giggles) Royal blue paint ... (Squeals.)"

"Come right over!" (Chuckles)

Entering the salon, her hairdresser and several clients had heard about the new-blue hairdo. Everyone, including The Mom, burst into outrageous, side-holding laughter.

Although leaving the salon that afternoon with a much shorter hair style, The Mom still has fond memories, including chuckles, whenever she recalls a classic home improvement.



Letters to the Editor

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sonal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Send letters to: *The Chicopee Register*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email chicopeeregister@turley.com.

The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

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PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

EDITOR
Tyler Witkop
chicopeeregister@turley.com

STAFF WRITER
Dalton Zbierski
dzbierski@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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Advertising Sales
Wendy Delcamp
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Editor
Tyler Witkop
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Another favorite fragrant flower

It's safe to say that peonies played a pretty important role in my childhood and what would turn out to be a blossoming love of horticulture. Because my birthday is in early June, we have numerous snapshots of yours truly blowing out the candles with a bouquet of frilly pink flowers in the background. My mom still has the two original plants growing near her porch, and they date back to her grandmother who grew them in the 1930s. Although the flowers fall into the old-fashioned category, they continue to be popular in modern gardens because of their fragrance and form, not to mention their longevity. Here are some tips to keep your peonies thriving for years to come.

Planting Peonies are best planted in the fall, September or October in our area. This timing will give the plants an opportunity to develop a healthy stand of feeder roots before the ground freezes. Choose a location that receives six or more hours of sun a day. Don't skimp on the size of the planting hole; one that measures a foot and a half deep by two and a half feet wide will sustain the plant for many years. If your soil is average, the addition of a balanced fertilizer may be all that is necessary at planting. Soils that are

lean should be improved prior to planting by amending the hole with roughly equal parts good soil and aged compost or manure. Peonies prefer a pH of 6.0-7.0, a wide enough range to accommodate most home garden situations. If your soil is more acidic than that, bring up your pH by adding lime.

Mail order plants usually arrive bare root. These can be soaked in a bucket of water overnight to rehydrate prior to planting. When it comes time to plant, remember this: eyes point up, roots point down! Eyes should end up no more than two inches below the soil surface; any deeper than that and flowers may be sacrificed. Get your plants off to a good start by watering occasionally until the ground freezes. Once it does, a light mulch can be applied over the peonies to prevent them from being heaved out of the ground during periods of freeze and thaw.

Fertilizing and watering

Peonies fertilized at planting time require no additional food until the following fall. Bear in mind that too much nitrogen will encourage lots of leaves but few

roots and flowers. For that reason choose a fertilizer that is lower in nitrogen than the other nutrients. After the third season fertilize after blooming, as well as in the fall. An established peony is drought resistant, but if spring rains are scarce, a weekly watering will promote good flowers.

Staking

Heavy peony flowers, especially the old-fashioned types, will no doubt bow down to the ground in the wind and rain unless staked. I usually pick some for the vase in the bud stage in an attempt to avoid this task, but nevertheless it makes the plant nice and tidy and should be accomplished. Middle-weight bamboo stakes inserted into the ground on the outer edge of the plant cut to three-quarters its height, work well. Run two rows of twine or jute at one third and two thirds up the bamboo, respectively. Simply start by tying a knot on one stake, wrapping around the next and tightening as you go. If green bamboo and jute are used the staking will hardly be visible, especially if you don't tighten so much that it looks unnatural.



Diseases

One year my peony buds wilted and dried up just prior to bloom. The culprit was botrytis. Good hygiene can reduce the risk of this fungus invading your garden. Each fall simply cut the stems of herbaceous peonies down to the ground. Haul them off to the trash, don't compost. If watering is necessary, do so early in the morning and water at the plant's base rather than overhead to keep foliage dry. Any stems that show signs of wilting should be cut away and thrown in the trash as well. Disinfect clippers in between cuts.

My mom is anxious to share her grandmother's plants. No doubt I will be doing some dividing come September. I look forward to having a few of these family heirlooms in my garden for my girls to cherish as I did.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

FACES AND PLACES

Ashley Bonilla honored at WNEU awards ceremony

SPRINGFIELD – Ashley Bonilla, of Chicopee, received the Student Association Award of Excellence at the 2020 Cocurricular Awards Ceremony at Western New England University held virtually on May 1. This award is presented to a student with junior standing or above, in good academic standing, who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to campus-wide cocurricular life throughout the current academic year. The award was presented by Alumnus Rob Carmichael.

The Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development annually coordinates the Cocurricular Awards ceremony marking the culmination of a year of student programming and community service by over 70 active clubs and

organizations at Western New England University. From a pool of more than 80 deserving nominated students, 19 were selected to receive the prestigious Cocurricular Award.

“This was a wonderfully orchestrated event to honor and recognize our impressive student leaders,” said Dr. Jeanne Hart-Steffes, Vice President for Student Affairs & Dean of Students. “Congratulations to all of our student leaders and thank you to the families, faculty, and staff, especially Melissa Lambert, interim director in the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development, for making this tradition a reality in this unique and historic environment.”

Bonilla is earning a degree in computer engineering.

UNE names Dean's List

BIDDEFORD, Maine – The University of New England recently announced its Dean's List for the spring 2020 semester. To achieve the honor, a student must achieve a minimum GPA of 3.30.

Sara Authier and Alexandria Rousseau, of Chicopee, earned Dean's List status.

Carson-Newman celebrates 2020 spring graduates

JEFFERSON CITY, Tenn. – Carson-Newman University recently announced its spring 2020 graduates. Commencement ceremonies, which have been postponed due to the pandemic, are proposed for Aug. 7.

Michael Wroth, of Chicopee, receives a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration.

CHOLERA from page 1

treatment for cholera was as consequential as the disease itself. Doctors prescribed patients calomel, which contains a large amount of mercury, a toxic chemical element.

“They were actually poisoning the people to cure them,” said Kobierski. “Mercury is a heavy metal that destroys organs; it makes them shut down. It was also used in early

dental fillings, which also killed quite a few patients if the mixture was bad.”

Today, cholera is highly treatable and rarely occurs in Western Massachusetts. Kobierski explained how society adjusted to prevent future epidemics.

“Eventually, it turned out that cities started sewer systems, which drained the sewage out and dumped it right into the river. Also, they did away with wells in the backyard and piped in water from the city reservoir,” he said.

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STAFF PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI
The World War II memorial at Veterans' Plaza shines on a spring afternoon days prior to Memorial Day.



Those who have sacrificed their lives during the War on Terror are not forgotten at Veterans' Plaza off of Front Street.

MEMORIAL from page 1

that aired on ChicopeeTV repeatedly Monday and will soon be uploaded online.

Among the speakers were Brig. Gen. John Driscoll of the Massachusetts Army National Guard, Westover Air Reserve Base commander Col. David Post, state Rep. Joseph Wagner (D-Chicopee), state Sen. Eric Lesser (D-Longmeadow) and Mayor John Vieau.

Shaw thanked each speaker as well as the volunteers who arrived at the plaza prior to the ceremony to lay wreaths on the memorials that were erected at the site in honor of Chicopee servicemen who have laid down their lives. She explained location's poignant meaning.

"With the price that our city has paid in blood, literally, with the amount of residents who have entered the service and the amount of lives lost to all of our wars, there's really no other way to respond than to make a gesture as grand as the plaza to memorialize that sacrifice; not just of those soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen, but their families who live on embracing and appreciating the freedoms that they knew their loved ones gave their life for,"

said Shaw, adding that there are approximately 30 war memorials in the city.

While the Memorial Day ceremonies did not go without "some bumps along the road," Shaw was honored to be a part of the successful initiative. She thanked the city's veterans for being open to the different approach and hopes that this past weekend's virtual program will enhance the city's annual celebration of the holiday.

"I think that this may be an addition for every year moving forward for those who can't be there with us in person so that they still have the opportunity to join us in spirit," said Shaw. "I think that door opening is a path that was never considered before in allowing the community at large to view that tradition. I'm very proud of it, I'm very excited it went out, it was a little bit bumpy of a process being the first time that we've done it, but overall I think that it was very successful."

On a significant side note, the Department of Veterans' Service is working to account for all of the city's veterans. The more veterans that are counted, the more resources that Shaw and her colleagues are able to bring back to Chicopee's veteran community.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Chicopee Register, please email chicopeeregister@turley.com.

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STCC announces celebration of the Class of 2020

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College will hold a “Celebration of the Class of 2020,” a virtual event that will be streamed online Saturday, Aug. 29 at 6 p.m.

The college encourages family and friends of graduates to watch the event on STCC’s website, stcc.edu. In addition to the online celebration, STCC has invited every Class of 2020 graduate to participate in the college’s June 3, 2021, commencement ceremony.

STCC canceled the traditional 2020 Commencement due to the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. President John B. Cook said a planning team is continuing to work on details of the virtual event.

“We realize this has been a difficult time for our students, particularly those who are graduating and were looking forward to celebrating their academic success with families and friends,” Cook

said. “I’m proud of each and every one of them. They deserve to be celebrated - and they will be. I look forward to congratulating our graduates and honoring them at the virtual celebration.”

In addition to holding the virtual celebration in August, STCC announced other plans for the graduating class. All graduates will receive their diploma or certificate via mail, as well as a cap, tassel and diploma cover. Additionally, STCC will mail each graduate a commencement program that includes all honors and awards recipients, and an invitation to the June 3, 2021 Commencement.

STCC will post updates about Commencement 2020 plans at stcc.edu/commencement.

STCC students walk in a procession during the 2019 Commencement held at the MassMutual Center last year. A virtual event is scheduled for this year’s class.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

State implements pandemic unemployment compensation

BOSTON – The Baker-Polito Administration recently announced that Massachusetts residents who are eligible for the federal CARES Act and qualify for having exhausted their regular unemployment compensation may now receive the new Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation.

The launch of this program marks the third and final benefit available for the commonwealth through the CARES Act.

PEUC provides up to 13 additional weeks of benefits to an individual who has exhausted all rights to any regular unemployment compensation and who meets other eligibility requirements of the CARES Act. PEUC will automatically begin for individuals who have been receiving regular standard unemployment benefits on an active claim and those benefits are exhausted, and those individuals do not have to take any further action.

If an individual’s standard unemployment claim has expired, they must file a new standard claim. If the individual is monetarily eligible on the new standard claim, regardless of the benefit rate amount, they will receive benefits from that new claim. Otherwise, the individual will be eligible for PEUC on the prior claim and it will be automatically implemented.

Individuals who ex-

hausted their standard benefits but were receiving benefits through Pandemic Unemployment Assistance must apply to claim weekly benefits. Residents should apply through the standard unemployment benefits portal online.

Those receiving PEUC will also receive \$600 weekly through the week ending July 25, 2020, provided by the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program established by the CARES Act.

The CARES Act signed into law on March 27, established the PEUC, PUA and FPUC public benefit programs that expanded unemployment eligibility, temporarily increases weekly benefits for all claimants and allows additional categories of people to claim unemployment benefits.

More information about Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation can be found at mass.gov/peuc.

Audit calls on UMass to ensure contractors pay prevailing wage

BOSTON – A recent audit by State Auditor Suzanne M. Bump found the University of Massachusetts Building Authority could not verify that employees of contractors who worked on public projects were paid the appropriate prevailing wage.

The audit, which examined the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018, also looked at UMBA’s processes for reviewing and approving capital projects, monitoring payments and change orders, and completion and close-out of contracts and found no deficiencies in these areas.

Nearly half of the employee payroll records reviewed by Bump’s office (1,608 out of 3,344) had job classifications for contractor employees that did not match the Division of Labor Standards’ prevailing wage rate sheets, making it impossible to determine whether these employees were paid the appropriate prevailing wage. Of the remaining employees reviewed by Bump’s office, approximately 5 percent (90 employees) were paid less

than the required prevailing wage.

“The UMass Building Authority is responsible for ensuring employees working on its public projects are paid fairly and accurately. While many of the areas we examined showed no deficiencies, it’s clear the authority must establish better employee payroll monitoring processes. Failure to do so will mean some workers could be short-changed when working on public projects,” Bump said of the audit.

The Massachusetts Prevailing Wage Law for public works projects requires contractors to

pay the prevailing wage. Prevailing wages are the minimum hourly rates set by DLS for job classifications. UMBA contracts with owner’s project managers to maintain and monitor records of compliance with the Prevailing Wage Law.

The audit calls on UMBA to establish a payroll policy that includes a documented process for its owner’s project managers to follow to effectively detect, investigate and report any contractors who may not be complying with the state’s prevailing wage law. The audit recommends UMBA establish monitoring controls to

ensure OPMs consistently adhere to the established process.

UMBA is an independent public body responsible for overseeing public works construction projects on the University of Massachusetts’ five campuses (Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell and the Worcester Medical School). The UMBA board of directors consists of 11 members appointed by the Governor. During the audit period, UMBA had 83 projects in various stages of construction, on which it spent approximately \$614 million.

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Sports

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BASEBALL

Tri-County League cancels 2020 season

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The executive board for the Tri-County Baseball League has made the decision to cancel the 2020 season despite considering playing a bit later schedule in the summer.

Last Wednesday, the board announced their decision following a meeting of the league.

Karl Oliveira, who runs the St. Joseph's team in the league as well as serves as the league's secretary and treasurer, made the announcement in the form of an email to the league's returning players and coaches.

"The Executive Board of the TCL voted 4-0 not to move forward to play baseball for this year's season," said Oliveira. "The 2020 season for the TCL has been officially canceled."

Due to the concerns set forth by the COVID-19 pandemic and the way the league is situated, the league cited a vast number of factors in making the decision to cancel the season.

The league cited player, coach, umpire, and fan safety as the top priorities. Further, the league stated the safety of extended families in making the decision.

Expanding, Oliveira cited certain fields would not have concessions stands or restrooms open to the public, including sani-cans.



FILE PHOTOS

He said the rules from town-to-town would also weigh heavily in the teams' ability to get home fields for play.

"Some fields may allow you to play on them some fields may not allow you to play on them," said Oliveira.

One of the biggest factors in

See TRI-COUNTY page 9

PeoplesBanks would have been going for its eighth consecutive playoff title. The Bankers have been the top team in the league for a long time with powerful hitting and a dedicated pitching staff.



HIGH SCHOOL TRACK

Boys track would have had strong jumpers

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

CHICOPEE – Chicopee High School boys track has always had heated rivalries with many of the top Division 1 teams in the region. Coach Alex Efstratios was looking forward to having three seniors take the lime-light for the Pacers this spring.

Chase Jorgensen was a four-year member of the team and was one of the best pole vaulters in the county, the coach said.

"I believe Chase would 've had a good opportunity to win Western Mass. in pole vault and potentially break the school record," said Efstratios. "Chase works extremely hard at becoming the best he can be at the event of pole vault. Chase is a good student and is also a member of the ROTC Program at Chicopee High School. Very tough to replace."

Carlos Rosa was a three-year member of the team and was a top hurdler for the team.

"He did both the high hurdles and the low hurdles," said Efstratios. "I think without question that Carlos would have placed in both hurdle events in Western Mass. along with having a great opportunity to break the school record in the low hurdles. Carlos is an extremely hard worker, always the first one to get to practice and the athlete to leave practice. He is a good student and very coachable."

His final senior is Edward Maczka. The coach said Maczka would have been in his third year on the team and was a great thrower, participating in events like the shot put, discus, and javelin.

"I feel like Edward would have had an opportunity to place in all three events in every dual meet this year," said Efstratios. "Edward is very dedicated and worked really hard to get himself to the point where he is placing in all meets. There has been substantial improvement from year to year. He, like is his teammates, is also a good student."

The cancellation of the season is tough for everyone, the coach said, and he feels bad for the seniors do not get to complete their final season.

"The cancelling of the season is definitely disappointing especially for the seniors and the athlete that only participates in outdoor track," said Efstratios. "Those athletes can never get this season back. As a team I only have three seniors so for those three student athletes it is tough to see them not being able to finish what they started."

COVID-19

State cancels American Legion baseball for 2020

REGION – American Legion state department chairman Richard Paster issued a statement about the cancellation of the 2020 season:

It is with deep regret that I inform you that the National Organization has decided to cancel the 2020 Season effective immediately due to the continuing events resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The American Legion National Organization is implementing the following directives relating to The American Legion National Organization national baseball program for the 2020 season which the Department of Massachusetts hereby incorporates in its instructions for all Post and Outside Sponsored teams in Massachusetts:

1. Any and all previous 2020 American Legion National Organization memos regarding the national baseball program for the 2020 season are retracted and replaced by the following.

2. The American Legion National Organization has canceled all 2020 season's Regional

This is a sad day indeed for American Legion Baseball in Massachusetts and marks only the second time since 1926 that there will be no program, let's hope life returns to normal in time for the 2021 season.

Richard Paster
American Legion state department chairman

Tournaments and The American Legion World Series and the Department of Massachusetts hereby cancels all Department Tournaments.

3. Concurrently, The American Legion National Organization has shut down all sponsorship and all involvement in baseball for the 2020 season and The Department of Massachusetts hereby shuts down its sponsorship and all involvement in baseball for the 2020 season.

4. This shutdown of all sponsorship and all involvement in baseball for the 2020 season means that those baseball teams that wish to continue playing 2020 season baseball shall be participating in a sporting event

not sponsored, nor endorsed in any manner by The American Legion National Organization and/or The Department of Massachusetts, but sponsored and endorsed solely by the group the team is named.

5. Any baseball team that continues play in the 2020 season sponsored by the group the team is named must understand that its team is not playing as an American Legion National Organization nor Department of Massachusetts "registered" baseball team nor is it playing in an American Legion National or Department of Massachusetts Organization baseball program.

6. The complete cancellation of the 2020 American Le-

gion National and Department of Massachusetts Organization baseball season means there is no American Legion National or Department of Massachusetts Organization baseball program "national or department rules," nor are there "national or department guidelines," as there is no 2020 American Legion national or Department of Massachusetts involvement.

7. In other words, if an American Legion Post or other type of sponsored team has a 2020 season baseball program, then that Post or other team is having a team which is not authorized, nor endorsed by The American Legion National nor Department of Massachusetts Organization."

8. Those teams that conduct this 2020 baseball season program will need to determine their rules, guidelines, schedules, insurance coverage, etc., for their own teams as neither The American Legion National nor Department of Massachu-

See LEGION page 9

London showcase postponed by Basketball Hall of Fame

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announced today the inaugural Basketball Hall of Fame London Showcase originally scheduled for December 6, 2020 has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The event was expected to feature Marist College vs. University of Maryland, Baltimore and University of Kentucky vs. University of Michigan.

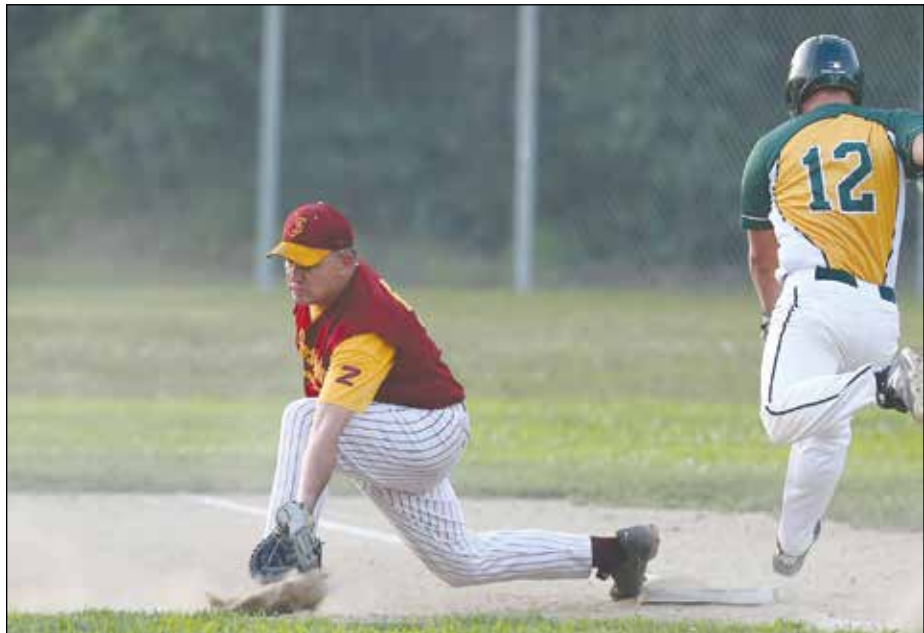
“As we navigate these unprecedented times, the Basketball Hall of Fame has remained vigilant in placing health and safety above all else,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Basketball Hall of Fame. “Unfortunately, the unknown combination of health, safety, international travel regulations and the economic viability for all parties involved has required us to postpone this highly anticipated event at The O2. We look forward to hosting a fantastic event in 2022.”

The Basketball Hall of Fame London Showcase will now take place Sunday,

December 4, 2022 at The O2 arena and will be televised domestically by ESPN / ABC. The event will remain a part of the Kentucky and Michigan three-year series, now facing-off in Ann Arbor in 2021, London in 2022 and Lexington in 2023.

The Basketball Hall of Fame London Showcase is one event in the Hall of Fame’s series of collegiate events, which continues to grow in an effort to celebrate the game outside the museum walls. At this point in time, the Basketball Hall of Fame has not cancelled or postponed any domestic collegiate events scheduled for the fall and winter of 2020.

All fans who have purchased a ticket to the 2020 Hall of Fame London Showcase will receive a full refund automatically to the method used for purchase within 14 business days. During these unprecedented times it may take longer for funds to credit your account. Tickets for the 2022 Hall of Fame London Showcase will go back on-sale for December 4, 2022 in January or February of 2022.



FILE PHOTOS

St. Joseph’s has always been a top rival for PeoplesBank and a mainstay in the league based out of Palmer.

TRI-COUNTY from page 8

even coming up with a modified schedule is the fluidity of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts’ phased approach to re-opening the state. He said games would not be able to be played until July at the earliest. He said with that timeline, any setback would have been very restrictive to the schedule and could have cost the league and its players a lot of money.

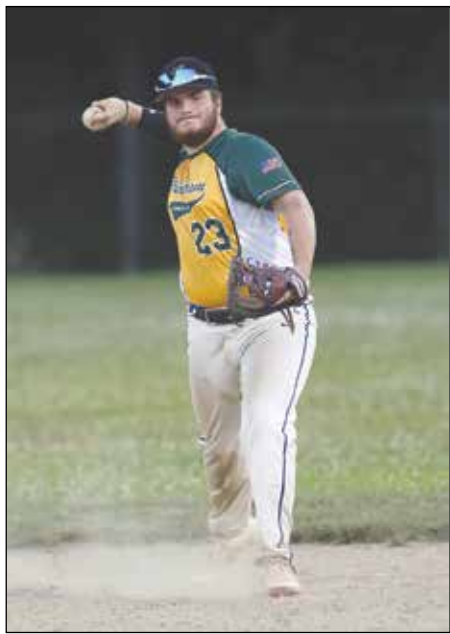
The Tri-County League has been typically a weekday league with just a few weekend games. The National Division, which was brought in using the defunct Full Count League did have some weekend games, but also played many games during the week.

Oliveira also said simple social distancing and the cleaning of equipment, as well as sanitizing surfaces like benches and other dugout areas were also factors considered in the cancellation decision.

He also cited sponsors. The league questioned whether sponsors, especially those with limited or no business since the outbreak would be able to contribute funding to the league.

Among the costs, more than \$5,500 for insurance, and there was no guarantee if the league itself or somewhere else experienced an outbreak, would the league have to shut back down and be out all of the money for the revised schedule.

“To say we are disappointed, is an understatement,” said Oliveira. “This board



Wilbraham Funeral Home always brings a competitive group to the field.

knows how all of us feel about playing baseball, especially in a league that has been going since 1949.”

Tri-County still plans to hold its annual golf tournament. The TCL Golf Tournament on Saturday, October 3, at Mill Valley Golf Links in Belchertown, is still on for this year. There will be more details on this event to follow in the coming weeks.

Submit senior athletes

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The Turley Publications sports department is looking to honor the senior athletes who have had their spring seasons cancelled by the coronavirus pandemic.

The senior features have already started rolling out, but if you have not seen your senior featured, we encouraged you to send photos and info on your son or daughter, and encourage you to contact their coach to speak with us.

We have reached out to spring coaches and athletic directors, but are still

trying to collect info on every team that would have been involved in this spring’s season.

We hope to also publish action photos of seniors from previous seasons, though parents and coaches are encouraged to send photos of seniors they would like to see published in the upcoming editions of the paper.

All submissions can be made to Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at sports@turley.com. In the subject line, please identify the school and sport you are writing in about. Senior athletes are also encouraged to write in to talk about the season that wasn’t.

Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball looking for new players for 2020

REGION – The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for the upcoming 2020 season. The league is seeking players ages 28 and up. Players turning 28 this year are eligible. However, only players 30 and older can pitch. The league plays 15 regular season games with games being held mostly on Sundays with a couple of weekday games thrown in the mix as well as a special Mother’s Day Saturday game in early May. However, due to the current circumstances, the league schedule has been pushed back. The league still plans

to play its season once bans on gatherings are lifted. The league is built on comradery, fair play, and having a good time with friends. If interested in trying out, go to www.valleywheelbaseball.com. The rules of the league and new player forms can be found on the site. For further information, you can contact the league’s commissioner, Jim Nason at wheel12@comcast.net or call him at (413) 433-4308. Tryouts will be take place as soon as conditions are allowed, but new player applications are still being accepted.

Sign-ups on hold for Quabbin Over-30 Baseball League

REGION – The Quabbin Valley Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for 2020 season. The league has six teams, several with open roster spots. Last year, the league voted to allow players age 28 and 29 to be able to join the league, though players under 30 are not eligible to pitch. The cost of the league this season is \$192. For returning and new players, sign-ups have been placed on hold until a determination has been made on the season going forward. The

league is hopefully to begin play sometime in June or July. The season is 15 regular season games plus at least one playoff game. A modified schedule is being worked on by league officials. Games are nine innings and metal (BBCOR -3) or wood bats are allowed. Fields locations are throughout Western Mass. For more information on the league, or if you are interested in registering, go to <https://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org/>. The league is also in Facebook.

LEGION from page 8

setts Organizations will provide this assistance.

9. The American Legion National Organization has already stopped collecting, and subsequently returned to all teams any and all national baseball team fees to the respective teams and the Department of Massachusetts will similarly return all Department registration fees as soon as practicable.

10. With the shutdown of the online National American Legion Baseball registration portal, The American Legion National Organization has stopped referring baseball teams to the K&K Insurance portal for the 2020 baseball season.

11. The Posts and/or other teams that decide to have their own programs will need to determine what insurance their teams need in order to play baseball in 2020; neither The American Legion National Organization nor the Department of Massachusetts will provide this assistance.

12. All baseball teams that paid to The American Legion National Organization administrative fees shall have these fees reimbursed to the teams directly by

the National Organization, the Department of Massachusetts will have no involvement in such reimbursement.

13. All other situation(s) that may arise during the 2020 baseball season in which a Post or other type of sponsored team that elects to have a 2020 baseball season is a situation for that particular team as that particular team is solely responsible for its decision as to any situation(s) as neither The American Legion National Organization nor the Department of Massachusetts, its Athletic Committee, their staffs and/or volunteers are not authorized to address or help with any such teams situation(s).

14. K&K Insurance will be advised that the Department of Massachusetts has elected to cancel the 2020 season, that no teams have formed and that all premiums that have been collected thus far are to be forthwith refunded. The Department of Massachusetts will have no involvement in any such refunds.

This is a sad day indeed for American Legion Baseball in Massachusetts and marks only the second time since 1926 that there will be no program, let’s hope life returns to normal in time for the 2021 season.

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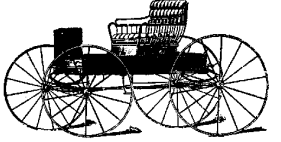
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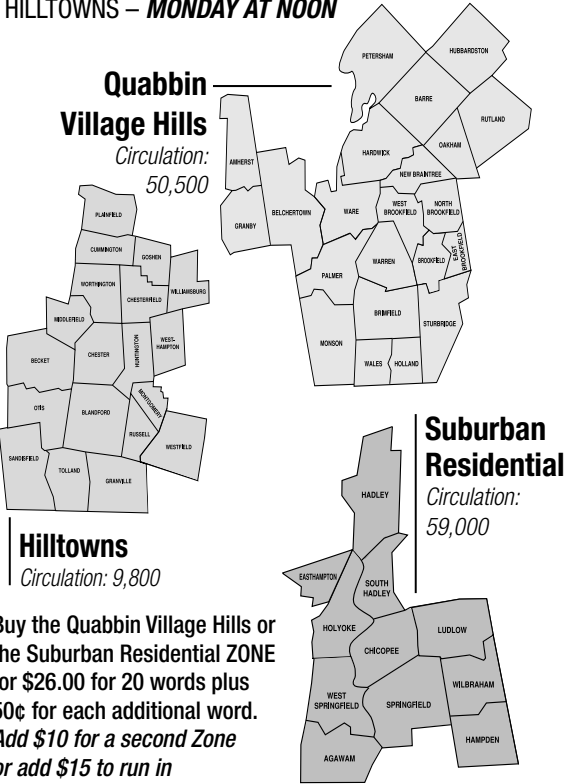
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Virtual walk to help those with Parkinson’s disease

BOSTON – The American Parkinson Disease Association Massachusetts Chapter is hosting the APDA Massachusetts Virtual Optimism Walk Sunday, May 31. One of four virtual Optimism Walks happening on the same day, the Massachusetts walk is part of a nationwide series of Optimism Walks that mobilize and inspire people to step up and help put an end to Parkinson’s disease. Participants in the APDA Massachusetts Virtual Optimism Walk will join fellow walkers from coast to coast. After an online celebration and opening ceremony, participants in all four virtual events will walk separately, but together in solidarity for the PD community. Due to social distancing, participants will be encouraged walk on their own and share photos and comments using #OptimismWalk so together they can still be uplifted by a great sense of community and camaraderie. “Year after year our Optimism Walk has brought together friends, family and even strangers who are all in this fight together, and that doesn’t change with our virtual format - we are still in this together” said Kristin Stapleton, APDA Massachusetts Chapter president. “The funds raised at our Optimism Walk helps APDA provide much-needed support groups, exercise classes designed specifically for people with PD, which includes a wide array of virtual programming we’ve adapted and created to keep people supported, engaged and informed while they need to stay at home.” To learn more and register for the APDA Massachusetts Virtual Optimism Walk, visit www.apdaparkinson.org/ma or call 800-651-8466.

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Jewish Federation of Western Mass. gets community moving

The Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts’ flagship programs – Rachel’s Table, PJ Library of Western Massachusetts, NextGen and Women’s Philanthropy – are joining together to get everyone moving for a good cause. The program, Let’s Get Moving!!!, is a multi-generational, multi-level master class in creative movement led by Joe Bowie, a professional dancer and educator. The class will take place Sunday, May 24, at 11 a.m. through Zoom registration. The Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts exists to serve the needs of the community, and through its programs engages community members in this work of caring for one another. “Let’s Get Moving!!! is a class for everyone – for those of us at home and in need of some fun exercise and a creative outlet, for families wanting to move together, or because of this unique opportunity to learn from and play with an acclaimed professional dancer,” said Jodi Falk, director of Rachel’s Table. “We can move together, while apart, and help fight hunger at the same time.” Let’s Get Moving!!! was created to help everyone complete a healthy activity and stay fit while doing something good for their community. The event is part of Rachel’s Table mission to fight hunger and is part of its virtual 5K and non-competitive Outwalk/Outstep Hunger Self-Challenge program. To register for Let’s Get Moving!!! individuals and families must join the Rachel’s Table non-competitive Self-Challenge program by visiting signup.com/Race/MA/Springfield/Out-runHunger5k. Upon registration, participants will receive an email invitation to register for the Zoom Let’s Get Moving!!! class at no additional cost. The class will also stream live to the public on the Rachel’s Table, Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts, and PJ Library of Western Massachusetts Facebook pages. Cost is \$20 and proceeds directly support food for families during the pandemic and will assist Rachel’s Table either purchase and deliver 10 pounds of fresh produce to one of their pantries; purchase and deliver 30 pounds of shelf-stable milk to one of their agencies feeding children; or deliver six pounds of fresh meat and chicken to their soup kitchens.

HCC to hold Class of 2020 virtual celebration Aug. 20

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College will recognize the Class of 2020 with a virtual celebration that will be available for streaming beginning at noon on Thursday, August 20, 2020. “We’ll have special guests, a few surprises and a great time celebrating you,” President Christina Royal said in a May 8 email to students. The video celebration, which is not a virtual commencement, will include congratulatory remarks, student speeches, recognition, music and submissions from graduates. Prior to Aug. 20, each member of the Class of 2020 will receive a special surprise package in the mail and be invited to host their own watch parties on Aug. 20 or anytime after to share on social media using the hashtag #HolyokeCC20. More details will be released on the HCC website as they become available: hcc.edu HCC had previously announced the cancellation of its traditional Commencement on May 30 at the MassMutual Center because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, HCC will hold a traditional, in-person Commencement honoring both the Class of 2020 and 2021 on June 5, 2021.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES Under G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A
Notice is hereby given by **Interstate Towing, Inc.** pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on May 29, 2020 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

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Brookfield, MA 01506

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17 Raymond Dr
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2009 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
VIN: KMHDU46D99U816021
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13 Underwood St
Springfield, MA 01104

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50 Harding St
Agawam, MA 01001

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5/14, 5/21, 5/28/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD20P0781EA Estate of: Alice Flora Krasinkiewicz Date of Death: 04/06/2014 CITATION ON

PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **John J Krasinkiewicz** of Enfield CT and **Bill M Krasinkiewicz** of Chicopee MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **John J Krasinkiewicz** of Enfield CT and **Bill M Krasinkiewicz** of Chicopee MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **06/23/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE

MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 19, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
5/28/2020

Theatre Guild to hold digital auditions

HAMPDEN – With restrictions on gatherings and physical distancing measures still in place to limit the spread of the novel coronavirus, the Theatre Guild of Hampden will conduct digital auditions for its fall production of the musical “Hello Dolly.”

Those interested in a part in the show are asked to send a singing clip to Director Mark Giza at mgizas@charter.net by June 9.

The show is tentatively scheduled to open Friday, Nov. 6 at the Red Barn at Fountain Park, 883 Tinkham Road in Wilbraham, and features musical direction by Tom Slowik and choreography by Dina DelBuono.

For more information, call Giza at 543-4203 or 413-204-5333.

Nursery school accepting registrations

LUDLOW – St. John the Baptist Nursery School is now accepting registrations for the 2020-2021 academic year. Before and after school care, hot lunch, as well as computer, arts, music and physical education are offered, and full and half-day programs are available for children ages 3- to 5-years-old. For more information, call 583-8550.

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90 Meat would like to reassure its customers that we are working diligently to find our customers the best prices. We understand there may be some sticker shock at this time but please remember this is only temporary. 90 Meat encourages you to shop our frozen section for the best values until the market comes back down. In the meantime, stay healthy and safe! We are all in this together!

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